

## **RIFLE RIVER OUTLET DRAIN DRAINAGE BOARD**

### **NOTICE OF DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING TO ADD COUNTY TO A DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

**DATE:** December 9, 2021

**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** Ogemaw County Fairgrounds  
Exhibit Building  
2300 Rifle River Trail  
West Branch, MI 48661

**QUESTIONS:** (989) 315-7170

The Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage Board previously held a Drainage Board Meeting to Add a County to a Drainage District on August 30, 2021. The Drainage Board did not reach a decision as to the addition of lands in Ogemaw County to the Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage District at that time, and instead adjourned the meeting to ensure that all interested persons receive proper notice. A second Drainage Board Meeting to Add a County to a Drainage District will be held on the above date, time, and location. This meeting is an opportunity to review the addition of lands Ogemaw County to the existing Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage District. The Drainage District currently consists of lands located solely in Arenac County. It has been determined that lands in Ogemaw County contribute water to the existing Rifle River Outlet Drain.

At the meeting, the Drainage Board, which for purposes of this meeting shall include the Arenac County Drain Commissioner, the Ogemaw County Special Commissioner, and a deputy for the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, shall consider any evidence offered and determine whether the addition of Ogemaw County to the Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage District is just and equitable.

Proceedings conducted at this meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. All persons owning lands in the Drainage District or proposed revised Drainage District liable to assessment for benefits and any municipality affected may appear for or against the addition of the County. Any testimony that was previously given or written comment previously provided at the August 30, 2021 meeting will be made part of the December 9, 2021 Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage Board Meeting.

Additional information can be found on the Arenac County Drain Commissioner's website at: <https://www.arenacounty.mi.gov/Drain/> and Ogemaw County's website at: <https://www.ocmi.us/>. Questions may be asked prior to the meeting by calling (989) 315-7170. All written public comments received prior to the day of the meeting will be made part of the public record for the Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage Board Meeting.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

# FAQs

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about a Drainage Board Meeting to Add a County to a Drainage District

### ***What is a Drainage District?***

A drainage district is the land area that benefits from the drain. The drainage district makes up the watershed that contributes water to the drain. Each property and municipality within the drainage district pays for maintenance and improvement of the drain.

### ***What does it mean to add a county to a Drainage District?***

The Michigan Legislature passed a law in 2017 to allow lands to be added to a drainage district that would result in the addition of lands from another county to a drainage district. This means that it has been determined that lands from a county that is not currently included in the drainage district contribute water to the drain.

The purpose of the Drainage Board Meeting to Add a County to a Drainage District is to add lands from a county to the drainage district to ensure the drainage district boundaries accurately reflect the current watershed of the drain. In this case, it has been determined that lands in Ogemaw County contribute water to the existing Rifle River Outlet Drain.

### ***What happens after a county is added?***

After the Drainage Board Meeting is held and a decision has been made to add a county to the drainage district, the drain commissioner from that county is then added as a member of the Drainage Board. In terms of costs, the Drainage Board determines what percent each county should be responsible for in the drainage district. Each Drain Commissioner must then hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries in their respective counties where the specific revisions to the drainage district boundaries in each county can be reviewed with Drain Office staff to determine the specific lands within the county, as well as the specific percentage of cost each entity/property in the drainage district is responsible for.

If a county is added, you will receive a separate notice for the Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries once these hearings are scheduled.

### ***What happened at the August 2021 Drainage Board Meeting?***

You may have previously received notice for a Drainage Board Meeting that took place in August 2021. At that meeting, the Drainage Board took testimony and accepted written comment from property owners within the current or proposed revised Drainage District. The Drainage Board did not reach a decision as to the addition of Ogemaw County to the Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage District at that time. The Drainage Board adjourned the meeting to ensure all property owners receive proper notice. Any testimony previously given or written comment previously provided at the August 2021 meeting will be made part of the record for the next Rifle River Outlet Drain Drainage Board Meeting to Add a County.

### ***Do I have to attend the Drainage Board Meeting?***

You are not required to attend the Drainage Board Meeting, however, it is your right to do so. All property owners and municipalities in the current or proposed revised Drainage District can appear for or against the addition.

### ***When do I receive my drain assessment?***

Drain assessments are included on your winter tax bill and are only levied when costs are incurred for the drain. Assessment amounts vary from year to year. **There is no assessment for the Rifle River Outlet Drain this year.**

### ***What is my assessment amount?***

Estimated assessment amounts are available at the Day of Review of Apportionments. You will receive a separate notice for the Day of Review of Apportionments at a later date.

### ***How can I get more information?***

Visit the Arenac County Drain Commissioner's website at: <https://www.arenacountymi.gov/Drain/>, Ogemaw County's website at: <https://www.ocmi.us/>, or call (989) 315-7170 .